

Message Text

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SUBJ: NEW LOOK AT EDUCATION MINISTRY

REF ATHENS A-228

1. FOLLOWING TWO-HOUR MEETING OF PM CARAMANLIS AT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WITH NEW SENIOR OFFICIALS, GOG ANNOUNCED THAT ALL PROFESSORS DISMISSED FOR POLITICAL REASONS (REFTEL) WOULD BE REINSTATED AND THOSE ILLEGALLY APPOINTED OVER PAST SEVEN YEARS DISMISSED. COMMENT: FEW DISPUTE NEED TO REINSTATE OUSTED PROFESSORS, BUT THERE IS BASIS FOR CONCERN THAT GENERAL DISMISSAL OF THOSE "ILLEGALLY APPOINTED" - USUALLY BECAUSE MINISTER OF EDUCATION APPOINTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO FACULTY VOTE-MAY INCLUDE A FEW ACADEMICALLY SOUND AND APOLITICAL TEACHERS AND, FURTHER, THAT IN REPLACING THEM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION MAY INSTITUTE IDEOLOGICAL CRITERIA RATHER THAN ACADEMIC STANDARDS EVEN THOUGH UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS MAKE ACTUAL CHOICES.

2. PRESS STATEMENT FURTHER IDENTIFIED NEW TEAM TAKING OVER AT EDUCATION. IN ADDITION TO MINISTRY LOUROS, UNDERSECRETARIES APOSKITIS AND TSATSOS,
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DIRECTOR GENERAL FATOUROS AND NEW SPECIAL COUNSELOR

MARONITIS ATTENDED MEETING WITH PM. BIOGRAPHICAL COMMENT: DEMETRIOS MARONITIS WAS OUSTED FROM THESSALONIKI UNIVERSITY BY JUNTA. HE WAS ARRESTED MARCH 1971 FOR "ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES" BUT RELEASED WITHOUT FORMAL CHARGES; AGAIN ARRESTED IN APRIL 1973 IN GOG CAMPAIGN AGAINST STUDENT RESISTANCE LEADERS AND INTELLECTUAL DISSENT. OTHER PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT SPECIAL ADVISOR ON STUDENT AFFAIRS WILL BE PANAYOTIS KANELLAKIS WHO WAS IDENTIFIED AS FORMER PRESIDENT OF EGIN. NOTE: EGIN WAS THE SHORT-LIVED (1971-72) NATIONAL MOVEMENT OF EUROPEAN YOUTH. KANELLAKIS HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH POLICE BOTH WHEN HIS GROUP WAS CLOSED DOWN AND YEAR LATER IN 1973 WHEN AS LAWYER DEFENDING STUDENTS HE WAS ARRESTED AND HELD SOME MONTHS INCOMMUNICADO. KANELLAKIS IS THE SON OF GEORGE KANELLAKIS, PALACE CONFIDANT IN THE FIFTIES, AND THE YOUNG KANELLAKIS, DESPITE HIS POLITICAL ACTIVISM WHICH IS DESCRIBED BY FRIENDS AS BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT, IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF KING CONSTANTINE.

3. ON TWO POLICY MATTERS THE MINISTRY HAS HELD FIRM, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING, AGAINST PROFESSORIAL LOBBYING. AUGUST 6 OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE SAID RETIREMENT OF PROFESSORS WOULD BE HELD AT 65 (MOST PROFESSORS WANTED 70 OR 72), AND THAT THE MATTER OF REVIEWING THE ROLE OF ASSISTANT PROFESSORS WAS STILL PENDING (MOST PROFESSORS WANT TO SCOTCH THIS PAPADOPOULOS ERA INNOVATION).

4. FROM A WELL-PLACED NEW OFFICIAL IN THE MINISTRY, EMBOFF HAS LEARNED THAT GOG HOPES TO REPLACE ALL ELEMENTARY TEXTS BY OCTOBER WITH A NEW LINE OF BOOKS MODELED AFTER THOSE BOOKS BEING USED IN PROGRESSIVE PRIVATE MORAITIS SCHOOL. BOOKS FOR OLDER GRADES WILL BE REISSUED LATER IN YEAR. FIRST GOAL IS TO EXPUNGE ALL PROPAGANDA REFERENCES TO APRIL 21, BUT MORE BASIC AIM IS TO SUBSTITUTE DEMOTIKI LANGUAGE FOR KATHEREVOUSA AND TO MOVE TOWARD MORE PROGRESSIVE EDUCATIONAL CONCEPTS IN PRESENTATION OF TEACHER MATERIAL.

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5. EYE WITNESS REPORTED - NEWSPAPERS DID NOT - THAT LARGE CROWD GATHERED AT MINISTRY EDUCATION ATTRACTED BY CARAMANLIS' SEDAN AND THAT EMERGENCE OF PM FROM BUILDING CAUSED TREMENDOUS STREET DEMONSTRATION WITH PM HOISTED INTO AIR BY EXUBERANT CROWD. TASCA

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